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# BUSM News & Notes: July 21, 1978

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*Boston University*

# News & Notes

Boston University School of Medicine



Issue # 13  
July 21, 1978

BAKKE WON'T AFFECT BUSM POLICY: When the Supreme Court handed down its Bakke decision June 28, the School was immediately flooded with calls from the press wanting reactions to the ruling. Jacob Swartz, M.D., associate dean for admissions, talked to dozens of reporters, and issued a statement after hearing early press reports of the decision. The statement said it was the School's understanding that the decision would not affect affirmative action programs, such as the one at BUSM, that recognize an obligation to expand the number of minority members in medicine, but without the application of quotas. It continued: "It does not appear at the present time that there is anything in the ...decision that would require us to change our own admissions policy with respect to minorities. We will continue to attempt to attract, admit and successfully educate members of minority groups and women. We will continue to attempt to help increase the pool of minority applicants, and to take minority status into consideration in admissions as one factor among many to be weighed...."

FIRST LVAD PATIENT GOES HOME: The first American with severe coronary disease to be saved by an artificial heart pump was discharged from University Hospital June 7, while a second patient, who had also survived because of the pump, lay recovering in the Hospital. Robert Bernstein, 60, of Milton, who had the Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) implanted April 21 and removed four and a half days later, left the Hospital after meeting briefly with the press. His discharge attracted the largest number of reporters, photographers and TV cameramen ever assembled for a press conference at UH.

Only two weeks after Bernstein's LVAD was implanted, a second patient was placed on the pump for four days and also survived. He was a 42-year-old man whose heart failed when he suffered a massive heart attack following single-bypass surgery. This second LVAD patient, whose name has not been released, was discharged from the Hospital June 28.

The two successful procedures are considered to have given a major boost to the eventual development of a totally implantable artificial heart. The cases have already been acknowledged as key factors in the decision by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in early June to extend clinical trials of the LVAD, which had been slated to be discontinued.

Robert L. Berger, a professor of surgery at BUSM and UH chief of cardiothoracic surgery, headed the surgical team in both cases. Berger is a 1956 graduate of BUSM.

BYRNE SCORES 'INTERMEDIARIES;' MURPHY GRADUATES SUMMA: A "host of intermediaries" is widening the gap between doctor and patient, contributing to the rapid disappearance of "this cherished relationship", John J. Byrne, M.D., president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, told the BUSM graduating class, at commencement exercises May 21.

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Byrne, who is director of undergraduate surgical training and a professor of socio-medical sciences and community medicine at BUSM, cited a number of social and political forces that come between doctor and patient, among them state and federal regulatory agencies, the insurance industry, medical paraprofessionals, other doctors, hospitals, and the press.

BUSM awarded 137 M.D. degrees and the first three master of public health degrees (see story below) at ceremonies at Boston University's Case Center gymnasium. Stephen P. Murphy, of Boston, received the doctor of medicine degree summa cum laude, making him only the second Boston University medical student to graduate with highest honors since 1963.

Stephen G. Porter, student speaker, discussed the frustrations already encountered by members of his class during their medical education, and the frustrations likely awaiting them in medical practice.

The second annual BUSM commencement breakfast Sunday morning was attended by approximately 400 graduates and guests.

Two students graduated magna cum laude; they were Eric L. Logigian of Marblehead, Mass., and Daniel W. Gottlieb of Elmhurst, N.Y.

Among the nine cum laude graduates was Larry P. Bernstein, of Providence, R.I., whose father, Bernard, graduated from BUSM six years ago, in the class of 1972, at the age of 45. The other cum laude graduates were Carola A. S. Arndt, of Worcester, Mass.; A. Scott Connelly, of Brookline, Mass.; Jonathan P. Harding, of Kingston, N.Y.; Hardy Kornfeld, of Fort Worth, Tex.; Steven M. Matloff, of Newton, Mass.; Michael T. Rosenbaum, of Omaha, Neb.; Charles W. Shertz, of Claremont, Calif.; and Lois E. H. Smith, of Cambridge, Mass.

Commencement Prizewinners: The following students received scholarships and awards at commencement: Carola A. S. Arndt, American Medical Women's Association Scholarship Citation; Daphne L. Blackburn, Solomon Carter Fuller Award; Carolyn J. Borow, Henry Bakst Award in Community Medicine; Jean R. Brodnax, Pediatrics Award; Patricia A. Donahue, Bertha Curtis Award; Michelle R. Dudzinski, Elizabeth K. Moyer Memorial Prize; Glen K. Goodman, Upjohn Award; Daniel W. Gottlieb, Alumni Association Award; Jonathan P. Harding, Dean Eleanor Tyler Memorial Award; Bruce S. Klein, Louis Weinstein Award in Infectious Disease; Hardy Kornfeld, Alumni Association Award and Henry J. Bakst Scholarship Award; Eric L. Logigian, Chester S. Keefer Scholarship Award and Phi Delta Epsilon Women's Club Award; Steven M. Matloff, Dr. Samuel Poplack Award and University Hospital Student Prize; Stephen P. Murphy, Alumni Association Award; Guy M. Rochman, Ann and David Mishel Cancer Research Award; Michael T. Rosenbaum, Internal Medicine Award; Neal Shadoff, Job E. Fuchs Scholarship Award and Internal Medicine Award; James L. Skydell, Malamud Prize in Psychiatry; Lois E. H. Smith, American Medical Women's Association Scholarship Citation; Jonathan M. Stein, Internal Medicine Award.

SCHOOL AWARDS FIRST M.P.H. DEGREES: The first three graduates of the Master of Public Health degree program, introduced in 1976, received their M.P.H. degrees at Commencement. It was the first time in its 104-year history that the School of Medicine awarded a degree other than the M.D.

Receiving the M.P.H. degree were Susan I. Wilner, M.S., William Segal, D.M.D., and Stephen J. Sepe, B.A. Wilner graduated magna cum laude, and Segal, cum laude. In an impromptu speech at the Commencement breakfast, Segal, a 53-year-old dentist



whose Somerville practice consists largely of handicapped children and adults, thanked officials of the M.P.H. program and the School and announced he was presenting two scholarships to BUSM.

SMOKING IS CULPRIT IN STUDY OF WOMEN AND MI: Cigarette smoking alone accounted for approximately three-quarters of all heart attacks in a group of otherwise healthy women under the age of 50 and not taking birth control pills, according to researchers at the Drug Epidemiology Unit of BUSM. Dennis Slone, M.D., and Samuel Shapiro, M.D., co-directors of the DEU and both associate professors of medicine, led a team whose findings were reported in the New England Journal of Medicine June 8. The paper was widely reported in the press.

Heavy smokers--those smoking 35 or more cigarettes a day--had about 20 times the risk of heart attack as women who had never smoked, the DEU research team reported. The risk was related to the number of cigarettes smoked. The study is the first to be limited to apparently healthy women, who had no reason before their heart attack to suspect they ran a higher risk of heart attack than other women.

Authors of the report with Slone and Shapiro were Lynn Rosenberg, M.S., Stuart C. Hartz, Sc.D., David Kaufman, B.A., and Allen C. Rossi, D.D.S.--all of the BUSM Drug Epidemiology Unit; Paul D. Stolley, M.D., of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; and Olli S. Miettinen, M.D., of Harvard School of Public Health.

BCH PLANS \$14 MILLION RENOVATION: Boston City Hospital, a principal teaching hospital of BUSM, will completely renovate its 44-year-old Dowling surgical building and emergency floor area in a \$14-million modernization effort expected to begin early next year. The Boston City Council approved the Hospital's \$12-million loan application in May, with additional funds being provided by the federal government. In May also, the state Public Health Council granted a certificate of need. Federal approval is expected in September, with actual construction beginning as early as next February.

Plans call for the renovation of the Dowling's 178 surgical beds and eight intensive care beds on three floors, as well as the operating rooms and the emergency floor and offices. In all, five floors will be renovated for a total of 200 beds, with an additional new 12-bed surgical intensive care unit on the sixth floor. The emergency floor will be completely renovated. Connecting bridges to the new Ambulatory Care Center will be constructed, and the exterior of the Dowling building, along with its electrical and mechanical systems, will be improved.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER STUDY SUBMITTED: The 970-page final draft report of a major study of health change in air traffic controllers was submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration July 10 by the departments of Psychosomatic Medicine and Behavioral Epidemiology. Submission of the report culminates five and a half years of effort--one year of preparation, three years and 10 months of the study proper, and nine months of data analysis. Under terms of its contract with BUSM, the FAA now has two weeks in which to read and respond to the report, and the researchers have two weeks in which to react to the FAA response, with the final report due Aug. 10, after which results will be made public. Co-principal investigators of the study are Robert M. Rose, M.D., formerly chairman of the Department of Psychosomatic Medicine and now chairman of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston; C. David Jenkins, Ph.D., director of the Department of Behavioral Epidemiology; and Michael W. Hurst, Ed.D., an



assistant professor of psychiatry (psychology) in the Department of Psychosomatic Medicine.

PRESCOTT, TERRELL APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED: Two BUSM appointments, both effective July 1, have been announced by Dean John I. Sandson, M.D. Marguerite Prescott has been named director of alumni affairs, succeeding Richard King, who left to pursue private business interests. Prescott, who was King's assistant, came to BUSM three years ago from Northeastern University, where she was director of the annual alumni giving program for more than 70,000 alumni. Linda Eberspacher, formerly secretary in the Alumni Office, is now Prescott's assistant.

Charles Terrell, former administrator of the Health Education Resource Program on the Charles River Campus, has been appointed director of financial aid. Terrell succeeds Floyd Kemske, who has left to pursue a career in writing and publishing. Bonnie Galvin continues as financial aid assistant.

25 FROM FOREIGN SCHOOLS TAKE SUMMER COURSE: Seven American students from foreign medical schools, admitted to BUSM for their third year next September in compliance with federal law, are taking a course in physical diagnosis and pathophysiology this summer at BUSM, UMass and Tufts medical schools. Eighteen students transferring to other medical schools are also taking the reentry course, entitled "Introduction to Clinical Medicine." The course was recently expanded to include student transfers to Vanderbilt, Harvard and Rutgers medical schools, as well as to the three consortium schools teaching the course.

BUSM's segment of the course is coordinated by Anthony Wapnick, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, and is team-taught by 13 faculty members. John McCahan, M.D., associate dean, is the principal investigator of a three-year Public Health Service training grant that funds the three-school program. The local coordinated program is the only consortium funded in the country, and it is one of the largest reentry curricula being conducted.

KLEIN IS NEW HEAD OF INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD: Michael Klein, M.D., an associate professor of medicine, has been appointed chairman of the Medical Center's Institutional Review Board (the Committee to Review Applications for Experimental Research Involving Human Subjects) by Medical Center Director Richard H. Egdahl, M.D., Ph.D., acting on behalf of the Executive Committee. The appointment was effective July 1. Klein replaces Peter E. Pochi, a professor of dermatology, who has led the committee since January, 1977, and who has been a member of the body since 1972. The new chairman, a cardiologist who heads the University Hospital cardiac care unit, has served on the board for two years.

UH SUBINTERNSHIP PROGRAM BOWS: The Department of Medicine at University Hospital recently introduced a subinternship program for fourth-year medical students from all over the country, under the direction of Jack Ende, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine. The one-month rotations, which began the last week of June, give students the same duties as interns; the students take call every fourth night on Evans 7 under the guidance of a junior assistant resident. The first subinternship program ever offered at UH, it is expected to provide extra training at the fourth-year level and to help the Department of Medicine in evaluating prospective internship applicants.

ALUMNI SPEAK AT BUSM CAREER DAY: Nine specialists, eight of them BUSM graduates, described their respective fields to an audience of first-year students at the first annual BUSM Career Day, held June 3 in the Hiebert Lounge. The physicians,



each representing a different specialty, spoke candidly about their reasons for selecting their fields, the nature of their duties, and the problems they have encountered. BUSM's Career Day is believed to be the first event of its kind in the country.

The idea was proposed by first-year students, who wanted more information to assist them in choosing a specialty later on. Warren Ferguson and David Hollander, first-year students, organized the event.

BOARD OF VISITORS 'IMPRESSED' AT ANNUAL MEETING: Several members of the BUSM Board of Visitors said they were very favorably impressed by presentations on research they heard in June during their second annual meeting at the School. During an all-day session in the Hiebert Lounge, the Board heard reports by Alan Peters, Ph.D., chairperson of anatomy; Thomas Ryan, M.D., a professor of medicine, and Robert Berger, M.D., a professor of surgery, both speaking on advances in cardiology; James Sorenson, Ph.D., an associate professor of socio-medical sciences, reporting on a survey of BUSM student attitudes; and Joel Alpert, M.D., chairperson of pediatrics, speaking on primary care. Members of the Board also heard a presentation on Boston City Hospital by David Rosenbloom, Ph.D., director of BCH and Commissioner of the city's Department of Health and Hospitals; Alan Cohen, M.D., Conrad Wesselhoeft Professor of Medicine and chief of medicine at BCH; and Lester Williams, M.D., Utley Professor of Surgery and chairperson of surgery.

SHEER LABORATORY DEDICATED: Ceremonies dedicating the new Alan N. Sheer Cardiovascular Research Laboratory on the second floor of the Housman Research Building were held July 12. Funds of \$81,000 for establishing the lab were given by the late Richard B. Sheer in memory of his son, who died in 1971 at the age of 31. The new facility is equipped with special radiographic equipment, which will be used by some 15 researchers to investigate ischemic heart disease and myocardial infarctions in laboratory animals.

Over the six years preceding his recent death, Richard Sheer made several other gifts to the Cardiovascular Institute through the Alan N. Sheer Memorial Fund. Present at the dedication were Mrs. Richard B. Sheer and other members of the family, William B. Hood, Jr., M.D., a BUSM professor of medicine and chief of cardiology at Boston City Hospital, and Dean Sandson.

RAMEY WINS SCHOLARSHIP; KEEFER ELECTED: Lisa Schied Ramey, a fourth-year student, received the \$2,000 northeastern regional scholarship of Soroptimists International of America, and Dorothy C. Keefer, BUSM registrar, was elected president of the Boston chapter of the organization, at a recent meeting. Soroptimists International is a professional organization for women.

The scholarship, given for outstanding academic achievement and community service, is presented every two years to a female medical student from an area comprising New England and the Maritime Provinces of Canada. Ramey, a six-year student, plans to pursue a career in family practice. Her husband, Elvin, is a 1978 BUSM graduate.

CAPITATION PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE, GAO REPORTS: A U.S. General Accounting Office study that examined the use of capitation funds at 11 medical schools, including BUSM, concluded that federal capitation support, though it provides a relatively small percentage of the resources needed to operate a medical school, has played an important role in medical education. While it made no recommendation about the



future of the program, the GAO report said that withdrawal of such support, without adequate funds to replace it, might have serious consequences for some schools, "particularly those with only limited access to resources from other Federal, State, and private sources." BUSM, reviewed last February, was one of six private and five public medical schools chosen by the GAO for the examination as being representative of the various types of medical schools nationwide.

UROLOGY RESIDENTS WIN ESSAY CONTEST: Two residents in the Department of Urology, Richard Babayan, M.D., and Bernard Katzman, M.D., captured first prize in the 1978 Walter S. Kerr, Jr., Essay Contest for Cost Control conducted by the American Urological Association. As first-prize winners they delivered their paper, "The Catch 22's of Cost Containment," at the AUA meeting in Washington, D.C., in May. The essay addressed the paradoxes that confront physicians and hospitals that voluntarily attempt to limit health-care costs. The Kerr Award is the most prestigious award conferred by the AUA, according to Carl Olsson, M.D., a professor of urology and chairperson of the department.

JENKINS AUTHORS NEJM EDITORIAL: C. David Jenkins, Ph.D., director of the Department of Behavioral Epidemiology, is the author of an editorial entitled "Low Education: A Risk Factor for Death" in the New England Journal of Medicine of July 13. Jenkins was invited to comment on a startling study by a New York research group, reported in the same issue, which found that men who have complex ventricular premature beats on an EKG, and who have an eighth-grade education or less, run a risk of sudden death 7.2 times that of men with neither risk factor. Jenkins is the author of a report published in NEJM last year which showed that the BUMC mental health catchment area, comprising most of Roxbury and North Dorchester and parts of the South End and Back Bay, is an "excessive death zone," having the highest mortality rate in the state.

GUNDERSEN, FRIEDMAN ATTEND O'NEIL DEDICATION: The Gundersen Eye Clinic surgical suite was dedicated in memory of Miriam Cotter O'Neil at ceremonies in the Hiebert Lounge in May. The suite is named for the late wife of William O'Neil, whose gift to University Hospital made the suite possible. O'Neil is a longtime patient of Trygve Gundersen, M.D., a clinical professor of ophthalmology emeritus, who spoke at the event.

Other speakers included Glenn Hastings, president and chief executive officer, American Optical Corp.; Ephraim Friedman, M.D., former BUSM dean and chairman of ophthalmology, and now dean of Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Dean Sandson; and Simmons Lessell, M.D., a professor of ophthalmology and associate professor of neurology and anatomy. Lessell spoke in place of Howard M. Leibowitz, M.D., chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, who was ill.

LIBRARY INSTALLS ANTI-THEFT SYSTEM: Later this month the library will begin operating a new device that sounds a discreet alarm when a book is taken from the library without being checked out. The device, similar to the "door frame" seen in airport security installations, sounds the alert when it detects a magnetic strip that the library staff has placed in each of the 80,000 volumes. Inserting the magnetic strips necessitated closing the library for a week during July. The security device is expected to pay for itself in prevented losses over the space of two years.

BUSM STUDENTS TEACH THIRD-GRADERS: Five first-year BUSM students recently gave a series of health mini-lessons to third graders at an elementary school in Whitman, Mass., under the supervision of Department of Socio-Medical Sciences and Community



Medicine instructors Arthur Culbert and Caryl Goodman. The medical students distributed bibs showing the location and function of parts of the respiratory system, and showed the children how to use the stethoscope and microscope. The health mini-lessons are part of a new seminar entitled "Health and Society: The Individual in America." The eight-week course, given to first-year medical students and public health students, focuses on the medical profession's contributions to the concept of self-care.

STUDENT ORGANIZES BLOOD DRIVE: In response to a Red Cross appeal to BUSM for help, a blood drive will be held Monday, July 24, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Hiebert Lounge on the 14th floor of the Instructional Building. Third-year medical student Martin Acquadro is coordinating the drive. All BUSM, UH, and GSGD employees, faculty, and students are encouraged to walk in and donate blood, whether or not they have filled out one of the donor cards being distributed with paychecks.

MOORE TO STUDY MS-LIKE DISEASE: Michael J. Moore, M.D., an associate professor of neurology, recently received a three-year, \$175,000 grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to continue research on experimental allergic encephalomyelitis (EAE), an artificially induced nervous system disease. This second grant from the NMSS is twice the amount of one awarded to Moore in 1975.

After inducing EAE in laboratory animals, Moore will look for genes that control the animal's susceptibility. If genes exist that "turn on" EAE susceptibility, as is hypothesized, others could exist that turn it off. With the results, Moore hopes to shed light on ways of fighting MS and other similar diseases of the nervous system.

LION NAMED DIRECTOR OF HEALTH POLICY ANALYSIS: Joanna Lion, Ph.D., has been appointed director of health policy analysis for the Medical Center. Formerly in charge of data analysis and research for the Massachusetts Hospital Association, Lion will be working on the staff of Richard H. Egdahl, M.D., director of the Medical Center and of the Boston University Health Policy Institute. Her work will involve defining factors that influence hospitalization of patients who are subscribers to Individual Practice Associations, the so-called fee-for-service HMOs. This work, which will tie in with current studies of the Boston University Health Policy Institute, will also examine the potential involvement of the Medical Center with a regional HMO. Lion will also assist University Hospital in determining an appropriate case-mix methodology.

GISSSEN WINS UROLOGY FELLOWSHIP: Sally A. Coates Gissen, a first year M.D.-Ph.D. student, was one of eight medical students nationwide to be awarded an American Urological Association summer research fellowship. She is engaged this summer in research at the Boston Veterans Administration Hospital, investigating the use of immunotherapy in mouse bladder neoplasms.

FELDMAN, ROMANUL ATTEND QUITO CONGRESS: Robert G. Feldman, M.D., chairman of the Department of Neurology, served as president of the First Ecuadorian Congress in Neurology in Quito, Ecuador last month. Flaviu C. A. Romanul, M.D., a professor of neurology, also attended the congress. Feldman and Romanul served as panel moderators and delivered lectures on various aspects of neurology. They were made honorary members of the Ecuadorian Society of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Affiliated Sciences. Invitations to Feldman and Romanul to attend the congress were extended by Marcelo Cruz, M.D., a leading Ecuadorian neurologist who completed his residency requirements in the Boston University Affiliated Hospitals Training Program.



PRESENT PAPERS IN PARIS: Aram V. Chobanian, M.D., director of the Cardiovascular Institute, and Harry Gavras, M.D., an associate professor of medicine and chief of the hypertension section at Boston City Hospital, presented papers at the fifth scientific meeting of the International Society of Hypertension in Paris during June. Sixty-five papers out of 700 submitted were accepted for presentation at the conference.

BRIEFLY NOTED: Edith F. Kaplan, Ph.D., an assistant professor of neurology (neuropsychology), was recently elected president of the International Neuropsychological Society, an academic organization of more than 800 neurologists, neuropsychologists and neurosurgeons from around the world. Kaplan is currently engaged in research concerning brain behavior relationships at BUSM's Aphasia Research Center, located at the Boston Veterans Administration Hospital....More than \$20,000 was raised for the Vision Rehabilitation Clinic of the Gundersen Eye Clinic of UH June 17 at an art show that transformed the West Wing of the Boston Museum of Science into an art museum and cafe. Some 400 guests attended the show and cabaret evening, sponsored by the ForSight Foundation, a private organization that supports the rehabilitation clinic, and by Pernod, an apertif manufacturer....Alan S. Cohen, M.D., Conrad Wesselhoeft Professor of Medicine and chief of medicine at Boston City Hospital, participated recently in a New York press conference on a family genetic counseling project in which he is involved. The project concerns members of a California family afflicted with hereditary amyloidosis....Thomas R. Dawber, M.D., a professor of medicine, has received a \$22,000 grant from the American Egg Board to analyze data from the Framingham Heart Study to determine whether a relationship exists between egg consumption, cholesterol levels and the development of cardiovascular disease....Biochemistry's softball team became the substrate when Physiology produced an exothermic rally in the bottom of the ninth inning to prevail 10-9 in their interdepartmental game June 11.

## News & Notes

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School of Medicine  
Office of Informational Services  
720 Harrison Ave., Suite 300  
Boston, MA 02118

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